

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Preface</i>	ix
1 Introduction: Mesoamerica and Its Pre-Hispanic Civilization	1
The Nature of Civilizations	5
Interaction Spheres and World Systems	7
Mesoamerican Civilization in the Late Postclassic	9
The Importance of History, Governance, and Networks	20
2 Theorizing Sociocultural Evolution	21
The History of Thinking About Sociocultural Evolution	21
Rethinking Power	26
Collective Action Theory	28
An Institutional Approach to Understanding Sociocultural	
Evolutionary Change and Complexity	39
Conclusions	40
3 Before Monte Albán	42
Mesoamerica, 1800–800 BC	42
Highland Oaxaca, 1800–800 BC	47
Valley of Oaxaca, 1800–800 BC	62
4 Origins of Monte Albán	72
Mesoamerica, 800–400 BC	72
Highland Oaxaca, 800–400 BC	75
Valley of Oaxaca and Monte Albán, 800–400 BC	80
5 The Great Transformation	103
Mesoamerica, 300–100 BC	103
Highland Oaxaca, 300–100 BC	105
Valley of Oaxaca and Monte Albán, 300–100 BC	109
6 Thinking About Theories of Sociocultural Evolution from the Perspective of Oaxaca	146
Rethinking Neoevolutionist Theory	146
Conclusion	157

Cambridge University Press & Assessment

978-1-108-92618-8 — Ancient Oaxaca

2nd Edition

Richard E. Blanton , Gary M. Feinman , Stephen A. Kowalewski , Linda M. Nicholas

Table of Contents

[More Information](#)

vi	Contents	
7	Cooperation and the Foundation of Monte Albán	158
	Cities and Collective Action	159
	Monte Albán and Collective Action	162
	Why Build a New Capital?	164
	Conclusion	168
	Epilogue	170
	<i>Bibliographical Essay</i>	173
	<i>Bibliography</i>	176
	<i>Index</i>	204